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Estimated average number of deaths per day from plague for week ended December 22, 1896.....	155
Total number of deaths from plague officially reported for last week.....	226
Average per day officially reported.....	32

S. COMFORT,  
*United States Consul.*

JAPAN.

*Report of the prevalence of infectious diseases.*

YOKOHAMA, *December 30, 1896.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith my regular report on infectious diseases in Japan for period December 13 to December 29, inclusive.

In view of the great prevalence, wide distribution, and malignant type of the smallpox now epidemic, I have, after consultation with the United States consul-general, considered it necessary to enforce disinfection, as well as vaccination, with regard to all steerage passengers from or through infected districts, the passport system of Japan enabling me to determine, with certainty, the last residence of the applicant for passage.

I may add that I have undoubtedly correct information of the recent occurrence of a few cases of plague in Hongkong after a considerable interval of freedom from this disease.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,  
*Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.*

[Inclosure.]

*Report of infectious diseases in Japan from December 13 to December 29, 1896.*

Locality.	Cholera.		Dysentery.		Smallpox.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Kioto Fu.....			4	6	63	15
Osaka Fu.....			8	1	162	37
Tokyo Fu.....	2	2	13	(*)	689	(*)
Aichi Ken.....			13	9	1	
Akita Ken.....			3	8		
Awomori Ken.....			10	6	2	
Chiba Ken.....			9	3	14	3
Fukui Ken.....			3	1	2	
Fukuoka Ken.....			1	4	51	15
Fukushima Ken.....			1			
Gifu Ken.....			85	106		
Gumma Ken.....			30	16		
Hiogo Ken.....			42	23	284	133
Hiroshima Ken.....			32	21	53	18
Ibaraki Ken.....			98	13	10	1
Ishikawa Ken.....					2	
Iwate Ken.....			3	7	2	
Kagawa Ken.....			7	5	2	1
Kagoshima Ken.....			33	12		
Kanagawa Ken (Yokohama).....	2	1	26	6	14	2
Kochi Ken.....			21	8	21	4
Kumamoto Ken.....						
Miyagi Ken.....			7	3	30	10
Miyazaki Ken.....			6	1		
Miye Ken.....			14	8		
Nagano Ken.....			10	5	1	
Nagasaki Ken.....			21	6		
Nara Ken.....			1	4	2	
Niigata Ken.....						
Oita Ken.....						
Oyama Ken.....			7	4	16	6
Okinawa Ken.....					63	27
Saga Ken.....			1	1	12	1
Saitama Ken.....			73	32	53	16
Shidzuoka Ken.....			136	61		
Shiga Ken.....			2		4	2
Shimane Ken.....			9	5		
Tochigi Ken.....						
Tokushima Ken.....			11	4	50	13
Tottori Ken.....						
Toyama Ken.....					1	
Wakayama Ken.....						
Yamagata Ken.....			1	4		
Yamaguchi Ken.....			22	13	29	5
Yamanashi Ken.....			23	11	1	
Yehime Ken.....						
The Hokkaido.....			1	3	6	
Taiwan (Formosa).....	†9	†7				
Totals.....			787	420	1,640	309

\* No report. † Plague.

*Smallpox epidemic in Hiogo.*HIOGO, JAPAN, *December 29, 1896.*

SIR: Confirming my cablegram of the 21st ultimo, announcing the prevalence of smallpox in epidemic form at Hiogo (Kobo), and my dispatch to the Department of State of the same date, numbered 86, confirming said cablegram, I have the honor to report that since the appearance of the disease in epidemic form there have been 1,504 cases reported, of which 652 have resulted fatally. The sanitary authorities seem to have the epidemic well under control. The number of cases reported daily are on the decrease, and I take pleasure in expressing the belief that the authorities will be able, in the near future, to stamp out the disease. Vaccination is compulsory, and a large staff of native